REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action dated March 28, 2001 in which the Examiner rejected claims 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 16, 18 and 21 claim an adapter pod for use in a medical perfusion system. The medical perfusion system has a main controller and a data communications network with a plurality of connection points, each connection point having a substantially identical network connector. The adapter pod comprises a common connector, a device connector and a controller or means. The common connector is adapted to be connected to one of the network connectors and has a connector configuration. The device connector is adapted to be connected with a perfusion device and has a connector configuration which is different than the connector configuration of the common connector. The controller or means is adapted to generate messages, in the form of digital data packets, for the main controller and perfusion device and controls electrical power to the perfusion device.

Through the structure of the claimed invention having a controller or means controlling power to a perfusion device, as claimed in claims 16, 18 and 21, the claimed invention provides an adapter pod in which it is easy to convert a perfusion system designed for one purpose into a perfusion system usable for a different purpose. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the structure of an adapter pod as claimed in claims 16, 18 and 21.

Claims 16-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dais et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,524,213) in view of Omori (U.S. Patent No. 5,820,414) or alternately in combination with Schenk (U.S. Patent No. 5,444,626).

Dais et al. appears to disclose process control which takes place especially in motor vehicles, industrial robots, medical monitoring and analyzing apparatus, elevator systems and the like. In recent years, the data exchange for this process control between the individual opened-loop and closed-loop control units have taken place increasingly with the aid of methods for serial data exchange. Two classes of protocols have been formed including protocols having messages with short identifiers and protocols having messages with long identifiers. A method is therefore provided for operating a data-processing system as well as a method for structuring messages which is flexible with respect to the particular requirements. The method affords the advantage with respect to the state of the art that within one and the same bus system messages having identifiers of different lengths can be transmitted consistently and free of interaction with one and the same protocol. Figure 6 is a schematic of a data processing system for use in a motor vehicle having several control apparatus operating at different locations and which are interconnected via a linear bus structure. The control apparatus are: an engine control unit 1, a transmission control unit 2, an ABS-control unit 3, a steering control unit 4 and a climate control unit 5. Each of the control units has an interface component 8. A possible interface control unit 8 can, for example, be a CAN-controller which can carry out the data transmission according to the CAN-protocol. The interface component 8 must therefore be able to process message formats for long and short formats. Each interface component is connected to the bus line 7. A passive termination component 6 is disposed at the ends of the bus line 7 as a termination thereof. For data transmissions, that station which wishes to transmit data, sends a transmission request to the interface component 8 corresponding thereto. The

interface component 8 which is addressed then carries out the transmission command independently and thereafter issues a transmission announcement to the station. The transmission announcement can contain the successful execution of the transmission command as well as possible error messages.

Thus, Dais et al. discloses a plurality of interface components 8 which carry out data transmission according to CAN-protocol. Nothing in Dais et al. shows, teaches or suggests a controller of an adapter pod which controls electrical power to a perfusion device as claimed in claim 16, 18 and 21. Rather, Dais et al. merely discloses that the interface components 8 carry out data transmission according to CAN-protocol.

Omori appears to disclose an IC card adapter including a main connector to provided on a side of a body while a plurality of sub-connectors 3A, 3B are provided on the reverse side. The main-connector 2 is for obtaining an electrical connection with an equipment (e.g. a personal computer) in which the IC card 1 is used. On the other hand, sub-connectors 3A, 3B are for obtaining electrical connection with adapters. The IC card 1 includes a frame pod made of plastic which forms an outer shape of a card body, and an electrical circuit board 6 in which prescribed electronic components 7 included semiconductor circuits are incorporated, and, a main-connector 2 and the sub-connectors 3A, 3B are mounted at a front end portion and a rear end portion of the electric circuit board 6 respectively. A IC card adapter 11 to be used by connecting to the IC card 1 includes a plurality of adapter-side main-connectors 12A, 12B (primary connectors) to be respectively coupled with the sub-connectors 3A, 3B of an IC card 1 and are provided on a side of the adapter 11. On the other hand, one or a plurality of adapter-side sub-connectors

13 are provided on the reverse side. To this adapter-side sub-connector 13, a connector 19 with a cable is connected, and at another end of the cable 19A of the connector 19, for example a connector (not shown) to be connected electrically to a telephone circuit is provided. The IC card adapter 11 includes a frame 15, and an electric circuit board 16 in which prescribed electronic components 17 are incorporated. The electric circuit board 16 mounted with the electronic components form an adapter module 18 which has a telephone function including a speaker function and a microphone function which is different from the function which the IC card 1 has possessed primarily.

Thus, Omori merely discloses a IC card adapter 11 having prescribed electronic components 17. Nothing in Omori shows, teaches or suggests that a controller of an adaptor pod controls electrical power to a perfusion device as claimed in claim 16, 18 and 21. Rather, Omori merely discloses a IC card adapter 11 containing electronic components 17.

Schenk appears to disclose a control system for a motor vehicle including a central processing unit 20, an ignition module 21, a fuel injection module 22 and a brake module 23. The components are connected to an external data bus 24. For connection to the external data bus 24 each component is provided with an interface 25. In addition to the interface 25, the central processing unit 20 is provided with a microprocessor 20a and a memory component 20b. In addition to their interfaces 25, each of the depicted modules 21, 22 and 23 is also provided with a microprocessor as well as a memory component and input and output circuits. For calculating the respective parameter control values, transducer signals from individual control modules 21, 22 and 23 must be fed to the central

processing unit 20. For that reason, the modules are continually transmitting these values to the central processing unit 20 by way of the external data bus 24.

Thus, Schenk merely discloses modules 21, 22 and 23 which output transducer signals to the central processing unit 20. Nothing in Schenk shows, teaches or suggests a controller of an adapter pod which controls electrical power to a profusion device as claimed in claims 16, 18 and 21. Rather, Schenk merely discloses modules which transmit transducer signals to a central processor.

Since nothing in Dais et al., Omori or Schenk show, teach or suggest an adapter pod having a controller which controls electrical power to a perfusion device as claimed in claim 16, 18 and 21, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claim 16, 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Claims 17, 19-20 and 22 depend from claims 16, 18 and 21 and recite additional features. It is respectfully submitted that claims 17, 19-20 and 22 would not have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Dais et al., Omori and Schenk at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 17, 19-20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicants undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set short and statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time, the fees for such an extension of time may be charged to our deposit account number 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge deposit account number 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Amendment

Marked-up Claims 16, 18 and 21

16. (Twice Amended) An adapter pod for use in a medical perfusion system, said medical perfusion system having a main controller and a data communications network with a plurality of connection points, each connection point having a substantially identical network connector, said adapter pod comprising:

a common connector adapted to be connected to one of said identical network connectors, said common connector having a connector configuration;

a device connector adapted to be connected to a perfusion device, said device connector having a connector configuration different than said connector configuration of said common connector; and

means for controlling electrical power to said perfusion device and for generating messages, in the form of a digital data packet, for said main controller and said perfusion device.

18. (Twice Amended) An adapter pod for use in a medical perfusion system, said medical perfusion system having a main controller and a data communications network with a plurality of connection points, each connection point having a substantially identical network connector, said adapter pod comprising:

a housing;

Attachment to Amendment

Marked-up Claims 16, 18 and 21

a common connector associated with said housing, said common connector adapted to be connected to one of said identical network connectors and having a connector configuration;

a device connector associated with said housing, said device connector being adapted to be connected to a perfusion device and having a connector configuration different than said connector configuration of said common connector; and

a controller disposed within said housing, said controller controls electrical power to said perfusion device and being adapted to generate messages, in the form of digital data packets, for communication with said main controller and said perfusion device.

21. (Twice Amended) An adapter pod for use in a medical perfusion system, said medical perfusion system having a main controller and a data communications network with a plurality of connection points, each connection point having a substantially identical network connector, said adapter pod comprising:

a housing;

a common connector associated with said housing, said common connector adapted to be connected to one of said identical network connectors and having a connector configuration;

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Marked-up Claims 16, 18 and 21

a device connector associated with said housing, said device connector being adapted to be connected to a perfusion device and having a connector configuration different than said connector configuration of said common connector;

a power supply circuit; and

a controller disposed within said housing, said controller being adapted to generate messages, in the form of digital data packets, for communication with said main controller and said perfusion device and said controller being coupled to said power supply circuit and controls electrical power to said perfusion device.